

PATENT

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Christina L. Vann
Christina L. Vann

Applicant : Koichiro Ikudome, et al.
Application No. : 09/295,966
Filed : April 21, 1999
Title : USER SPECIFIC AUTOMATIC DATA REDIRECTION SYSTEM
Grp/Div. : 2161
Examiner : P. Elisca
Docket No. : 34503/WWM/A522

RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
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Commissioner:

In the Office action dated October 12, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Horowitz et al. Specifically, with respect to the claim element, "wherein data directed toward the public network from the one of the users' computers are processed by the redirection server according to the individualized rule set," the Examiner asserted that this element is "disclosed by Horowitz, in the abstract, specifically wherein it is stated that the server also includes processing electronics which control the communication and network ports." It respectfully submitted that this application of Horowitz is incorrect. Horowitz is entirely about remote access to a private network. See, abstract, "A remote access server limits access to a local computer network." The system of Horowitz is directed to limiting access of a user's access to the local private computer network to particular network resources and services as restricted by an access filter. Horowitz does not disclose anything about a system that controls a user's access to a public network, such as the Internet. In fact, applicants could not find any disclosure in Horowitz related to public networks.

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To address the examiner's specific conclusion regarding the "processing electronics which control the communication and network ports," these ports only connect between a remote access computer and the local private network. As stated in the abstract, "The server includes at least one communication port for allowing communication with a remote computer and at least one network port for coupling to a local computer network to allow communication with the local computer network." The communication and network ports controlled by processing electronics are further described in the specification as serial communication ports 40₁ - 40_N and network ports 42₁ - 42_N on FIG. 4 and discussed at page 16, line 24 - page 18, line 1. Just like the abstract, this disclosure makes clear that communication ports 40₁ - 40_N and network ports 42₁ - 42_N are only used for connection by remote access computers to the local network, which is private. Thus, as the communication and network ports of Horowitz only carry data between a remote computer and a private network (over private telephone lines) and not between a user and a public network, they cannot be properly read on the claimed processing of data directed toward the public network from the one of the users' computers by a redirection server.

The difference between a access to a private network and a public network is significant. For example, all of the resources and services of a private network are known. They are also, by their nature, not available to the public, absent some particular connection to a remote site, that is also known. In the case of a public network, access to the network is not restricted and the identity of the computers and users that have access to the network is unknown. Further, the resources and services available on the public are not known and, in fact, are in a constant state of flux. The stated reason for the access filter in Horowitz is so to provide "security features" and to "restrict access to the network on a per-user basis." Public networks, by their nature are not secure and access is not restricted. Thus, the motivation for using Horowitz' access filters does not exist for public networks. Thus there it would not be obvious to apply anything in Horowitz to controlling access to a public network.

In the Office action date October 12, 2001, the Examiner comments that the remote user will not be allowed to communicate with a zone or device that the user should not have access to, regardless of the remote computer used in the attempt to gain access, but that the remote user will be able to


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communicate with non-restricted parts of the network. The examiner contends that this is a redirection towards another direction, in apparent response to applicants' arguments with respect to dependent claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 (first full paragraph on page 7 of Amendment dated July 30, 2001). However, it is respectfully submitted that while the function cited by the examiner blocks access to particular zones or devices, it does not redirect access. Redirection involves the server "directing" the user to another area of the network. If the user chooses on its own to try to access another, allowable area of the network, this is not redirection by the server, but redirection by the user that is simply allowed by the server. Horowitz does not disclose any server that redirects data, but rather only passively blocks or allows data.

With respect to claims 15-29, applicants cannot find any application by the Examiner of Horowitz to the claimed elements, "wherein the redirection server is configured to allow automated modification of at least a portion of the rule set correlated to the temporarily assigned network address" (claim 15) or "modifying at least a portion of the user's rule set while the user's rule set remains correlated to the temporarily assigned network address in the redirection server" (claim 26). The Examiner is reminded that applicants also made this argument in the second full paragraph on page 7 of the Amendment dated July 30, 2001, but applicants do not find any response to this argument in the Office action of October 12, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Wesley W. Monroe
Reg. No. 39,778
626/795-9900

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